

OVERSEAS DISSERTATION RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP 2008-2009 COMPETITION
Application due: Wednesday, May 7 2008

These awards provide support to graduate students in the Divisions of Social Sciences who will be financing dissertation research abroad through loans, personal savings, stipends and/or other small grants. The **maximum** grant allotted will be \$2,500 but most will be smaller. Grants are not renewable. Applications will be judged on the need to go abroad to do research, the feasibility of the project, and financial need. **NOTE:** These grants are not intended for pre-dissertation survey trips. If you have previously done research in the country to which you are applying, please explain why a return trip is essential to complete your research - and ask your referees to comment on your explanation. Also, international students may use these funds to conduct research in their home country.

Clearly state why overseas research is necessary for the successful completion of your degree. If your research needs can be met in the Regenstein, for example, funding from this program will not be possible. Please note that to be eligible for this grant a student must:

1. have completed all course work required for the degree by June 2008;
2. have an approved dissertation topic by November 1, 2008;
3. have been admitted to candidacy before departure for overseas;
4. plan to begin research overseas no later than April 1, 2009.

As you write your proposal, you should consider the timing of your proposed trip. Travel in the fall or winter may be most advantageous, as summer is usually the most expensive period for plane fares and accommodations. It is also a time when people who you need to see may be on vacation and archives may be closed for staff vacations.

Please give careful attention to the budget portion of this application. It is anticipated that the lowest fare for transportation will be used. You may wish to consult a travel agency such as STA Travel (www.sta-travel.com) that provides student fares. Do not use the US Department of Education maintenance rates but estimate living expenses at a modest student standard. Student guidebooks list inexpensive accommodations. Since this is a supplementary grant rather than one intended to provide full expenses, list the contributions from each source, including personal funds, stipend support, and loans, and be certain that the total resources match the total budget. The Selection Committee relies heavily upon the information supplied by the applicant concerning savings, loan history and other available resources.

Personal expenses such as medical insurance, shots and medications, passport, rent in Chicago, alimony, childcare, long-term rental or purchase of a vehicle, translators, interpreters, shipping expenses and gifts are not covered by this grant. Grant funding will be available beginning July 1, 2008.

The required reference from your principal dissertation committee chair is of primary importance. You may wish to provide your referee with an addressed envelope in which the chair's recommendation can be returned.

Language competency is also a high priority. You must demonstrate that you have sufficient language proficiency to attain the goals stated in your proposal. For example, those working in archives must have both archival skills and language facility to communicate with archivists, librarians and the like. Those who are conducting field research and interviews will be expected to possess much greater fluency in the spoken languages. If you will need more than one language, please provide language reports for each language. Language reports must be completed by a faculty member from an accredited institution of higher education in the United States.

You must also list decisions on any non-University of Chicago competitions for which you are applying. Recipients of these funds must submit a final progress report and provide receipts to the Dean of Students within a month after the return from overseas. Please feel free to contact Esther Riske at: 773 702 8415 or evpandia@uchicago.edu for more information.